

City of Rock Springs, Wyoming Settles for Failing to Implement Its Pretreatment Program

Contacts: Stephanie Gieck, 303-312-6362, Gwen Campbell, 303-312-6463

(Denver, Colo. – <<May XX, 2013>>) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced a settlement with the City of Rock Springs, Wyoming for \$12,500. The alleged violations for failing to implement its approved pretreatment program in multiple areas were discovered during an EPA inspection of Rock Springs pretreatment program on August 9-12, 2010 and subsequent information received by the EPA. An administrative compliance order was issued to Rock Springs on March 8, 2011, which ordered Rock Springs to implement its approved pretreatment program. This settlement resolves the alleged violations. The EPA implements the pretreatment program in Wyoming as the State has not sought authorization for this portion of the NPDES program.

Pretreatment is part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the Clean Water Act. Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) collect wastewater from homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities and transport it via a series of pipes, known as a collection system, to the treatment plant. Here, the POTW removes harmful organisms and other contaminants from the sewage so it can be discharged safely into the receiving stream. Generally, POTWs are designed to treat domestic sewage only. However, POTWs also receive wastewater from industrial (non-domestic) users. Pretreatment programs are important to control pollutants from the industrial users which may pass through the POTW into the receiving stream, interfere with POTW treatment processes resulting in less effective treatment of wastewater, or which may contaminate sewage sludge. Sewage sludge is nutrient-rich organic material resulting from the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment facility. When treated and processed, these residuals can be recycled and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth.

For more information on the Pretreatment Program, visit EPA's Pretreatment Program web page:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/pretreatment>

To report an environmental violation, please visit EPA's website at
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/index.html>